

**To:** martin[hestmark@usepa.onmicrosoft.com]  
**From:** Ostrander, David  
**Sent:** Wed 9/23/2015 1:57:12 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Portal Stabilization - shotcrete and bolting

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Way, Steven" <way.steven@epa.gov>  
**Date:** September 23, 2015 at 7:08:13 AM MDT  
**To:** "Ostrander, David" <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Griswold, Hays" <Griswold.Hays@epa.gov>, "Foster, Althea" <Foster.Althea@epa.gov>, "Williams, Laura" <williams.laura@epa.gov>, "Myers, Craig" <Myers.Craig@epa.gov>, "Madigan, Andrea" <Madigan.Andrea@epa.gov>, "Sisk, Richard" <Sisk.Richard@epa.gov>, "Rudy, Michael" <Rudy.Mike@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Portal Stabilization - shotcrete and bolting

David,

I want to confirm the status of the operations to stabilize the Gold King mine portal are in critical phase. We must complete the shotcrete work to completely stabilize the entry (portal) to the mine and to prevent further ground control problems. The critical nature of this work has been made clear to all parties since the response started. Weather conditions are changing with colder temperatures and yesterday substantial rain fell with snow above the site. The request by La Plata county to access the site this week to collect samples at the mine will further delay this operation. The sampling operation on Monday to collect the same type of sample for the same purpose to satisfy their objective resulted in a full day of lost shotcrete application in ideal weather.

Furthermore, the shotcrete operations will continue within the adit either following the completion of the portal area or during weather conditions that prevent application outside. The sequencing of this work will continue for at least another week if not two. The work must be completed to allow for the continued stabilization of the adit before winter prevents our operations from continuing at the mine.

I have no intention of directing a stoppage to the critical operations to stabilize the mine

portal at this time. At present, the mine portal operations will not be conducted on Sunday, with the exception of the need to work if weather delays cause a shutdown this week. If the county believes it is necessary to obtain a duplicate of the samples already collected and the Region intends to direct the operations to accommodate this activity, then I request that it be performed when the mine crew is not working. As stated, Sunday or after 5 PM are the current times that would not directly interfere with this mine stabilization operation.

Thank you for your support on this matter.

Steve

Steven Way

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

Emergency Response Unit

US EPA - Region 8

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